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SOURCE

Viata Sindicala.

## FAILURES IN THE RUMANIAN METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

23 AUGUST FACTORY -- Bucharest, Viata Sindicala, 18 Feb 53

The 23 August factory delivered to Flamura Rosie in Arad a number of carloads of steel parts, in the latter part of December 1952. The deadheads were still attached to these parts and the parts were neither cleaned nor polished. Moreover, some parts, such as the footstep bearings and head bearings, were not even cut according to specifications. The average cast weight of a footstep bearing is 65 kilograms; after grinding, it is 43 kilograms. The loss in weight is approximately 22 kilograms. However, most of the thrust bearings delivered by the 23 August factory weighed 80 kilograms each. No railroad cars of good quality will ever be manufactured so long as the dimensions of the precision parts used therein are not according to specifications.

The common fault of all steel plants is that they pay little attention to the quality of their work, as long as their monthly or yearly quotas are met. To follow such a course means to work against the interests of the state.

FIAMURA ROSIE FACTORY -- Bucharest, Viata Sindicala, 18 Feb 53

Since any state plan is automatically a law of the land, all enterprises are obliged to meet their production quotas. However, the Flamura Rosie factory did not meet its 1952 quota, despite all the overtime, the overloading of equipment, and the assignment of shifts to work on a 24-hour basis.

The fault lies first with the administration of the factory, and second with the poor quality products arriving from such steel plants as Vulcan and 23 August. For example, in January 1953. 600 journal boxes arrived from the Vulcan factory. These boxes had been expected for a long time; the lathe operators and metal workers could not meet their production quotas without them. However, investigation showed that all of the boxes were unfinished and that more than 80 percent of them contained dirt or other refuse.

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Representatives of the Vulcan factory were called immediately, and a deposition was taken on 31 January 1953. It was found that boxes were beyond repair; the remaining 578 boxes were returned for repolishing, rewelding, rebaking, and refinishing. It is suspected that someone or some people from Vulcan have deliberate motives in seeing that such faulty material leaves the plant as often as possible.

ELASTIC FACTORY -- Bucharest, Viata Sindicala, 3 Feb 53

At the end of December 1952, the Elastic factory in Sibiu reported 50 percent overfulfillment of its production quotas. However, large quantities of the products were of such poor quality that they had to be rejected. For example, the factory recently delivered several hundred coil springs and spring leaves to the Sovromtractor factory, all of which had to be rejected. This indicated poor methods of inspecting. From a large group of springs, only five or six pieces at most are inspected individually and the rest leave the factory unchecked. Regularly, Sovromtractor receives springs or other parts which are neither polished nor properly cut. The consequences are very grave, since on numerous occasions new tractors which leave the factory break down completely and remain unusable.

Conditions are just as poor in the production of wrenches. The Sovromtractor factory receives wrenches which are to be inserted in its tractor tool kits, but most of the wrenches are unacceptable. Workers from Independenta, Balanta, and other factories also deplore the poor quality of the spare parts issued by the Elastic factory.

These deficiencies are not due solely to failure to inspect the finished parts, but also to the negligence and carelessness of the workers. For example, metal files are not heat-treated in the factory oven, as required by the specifications. Consequently, some files remain too soft and others too hard. All of the faults are caused by improper factory administration.

Suggestions offered by the workers from time to time are always ignored by factory officials. Recently, Iustin Baboi, an employee of the factory, brought to the attention of his section chief the fact that 500 files were of such poor quality that they were completely unusable. The chief's prompt reply was that each faulty file would be inserted in a lot of good files, thereby disposing of all rejected files without showing a loss.

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